

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 stand rejected. With this Response, no claims are added canceled, or amended. Accordingly, claims 1-16 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

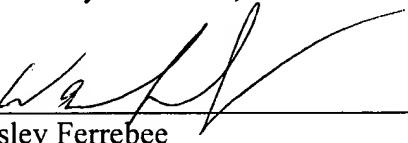
Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being purportedly anticipated *Rouse* et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. 2002/0087260, hereinafter “*Rouse*”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding claims 1-16, Applicant submits herewith a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 signed by the inventor showing prior conception of Applicant’s invention before the effective date of the *Rouse* Application and showing subsequent diligence in reducing to the invention to practice. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-16 are patentable over the *Rouse* Application.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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